



# TESS Data Release Notes: Sector 46, DR66

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## Acknowledgements

These Data Release Notes provide information on the processing and export of data from the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS). The data products included in this data release are full frame images (FFIs), target pixel files, light curve files, collateral pixel files, cotrending basis vectors (CBVs), and Data Validation (DV) reports, time series, and associated xml files.

These data products were generated by the TESS Science Processing Operations Center (SPOC, [Jenkins et al., 2016](#)) at NASA Ames Research Center from data collected by the TESS instrument, which is managed by the TESS Payload Operations Center (POC) at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The format and content of these data products are documented in the [Science Data Products Description Document \(SDPDD\)](#)<sup>1</sup>. The SPOC science algorithms are based heavily on those of the Kepler Mission science pipeline, and are described in the Kepler Data Processing Handbook ([Jenkins, 2020](#)).<sup>2</sup> The Data Validation algorithms are documented in [Twicken et al. \(2018\)](#) and [Li et al. \(2019\)](#). The [TESS Instrument Handbook](#) ([Vanderspek et al., 2018](#)) contains more information about the TESS instrument design, detector layout, data properties, and mission operations.

The TESS Mission is funded by NASA's Science Mission Directorate.

This report is available in electronic form at  
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<sup>1</sup><https://archive.stsci.edu/missions/tess/doc/EXP-TESS-ARC-ICD-TM-0014-Rev-F.pdf>

<sup>2</sup><https://archive.stsci.edu/kepler/manuals/KSCI-19081-003-KDPH.pdf>

# 1 Observations

TESS Sector 46 observations include physical orbits 99 and 100 of the spacecraft around the Earth. Data collection was paused for 1.39 days between the orbits to download data. In total, there are 25.75 days of science data collected in Sector 46.

Within the first 13 hours of orbit 99, the spacecraft pointing was adjusted by a small amount. In some cases, especially for saturated stars, the shift appears as a step function in the `SAP_FLUX` light curves. Details are in §1.2.

Table 1: Sector 46 Observation times

	UTC	TJD <sup>a</sup>	Cadence #
Orbit 99 start	2021-12-03 01:24:56	2551.56047	953356
Orbit 99 end	2021-12-16 02:46:55	2564.61741	962757
Orbit 100 start	2021-12-17 12:14:55	2566.01186	963761
Orbit 100 end	2021-12-30 04:46:55	2578.70074	972897

<sup>a</sup> TJD = TESS JD = JD - 2,457,000.0

The spacecraft was pointing at RA (J2000): 157.6997°; Dec (J2000): 10.0922°; Roll: 248.4063°. See the TESS project [Sector 46 observation page](#)<sup>3</sup> for the coordinates of the spacecraft pointing and center field-of-view of each camera. Fields-of-view for each camera can be found at the TESS Guest Investigator Office [observations status page](#).<sup>4</sup> The detailed target list for both 2-minute and 20-second data, as well as the Guest Investigator target lists, can be found at the [Sector 46 observation page](#) and the [observations status page](#).

## 1.1 Notes on Individual Targets

There are no issues with missing light curves or clipped apertures in the 20-second data products. There were 1061 targets chosen for 20-second cadence observations, consisting of all observable targets from the 20-second Candidate Target List and 400 PPA stars.

For the 2-minute cadence data, two bright stars ( $T_{\text{mag}} \lesssim 1.8$ ) with large pixel stamps were not processed in the photometric pipeline. Target pixel files with original and calibrated pixel data are provided, but no light curves were produced. Note that the TPF files do not include a background correction for stars without light curves. The affected TIC IDs are 95431294 and 51735845.

One additional target (184842717) is blended with a brighter saturated star. No optimal aperture was assigned in this case. A target pixel file with the original and calibrated pixel data is provided, but no light curve was produced.

Two target stars (903126673 and 350347140) are blended with comparably bright stars—the contaminating flux for these objects is very large, and the resulting photometry is expected to be unreliable.

One target (842320515) has a disjoint aperture due to crowding with a bright neighbor and likely has unreliable photometry.

<sup>3</sup><https://tess.mit.edu/observations/sector-46>

<sup>4</sup><https://heasarc.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/tess/sector.html>

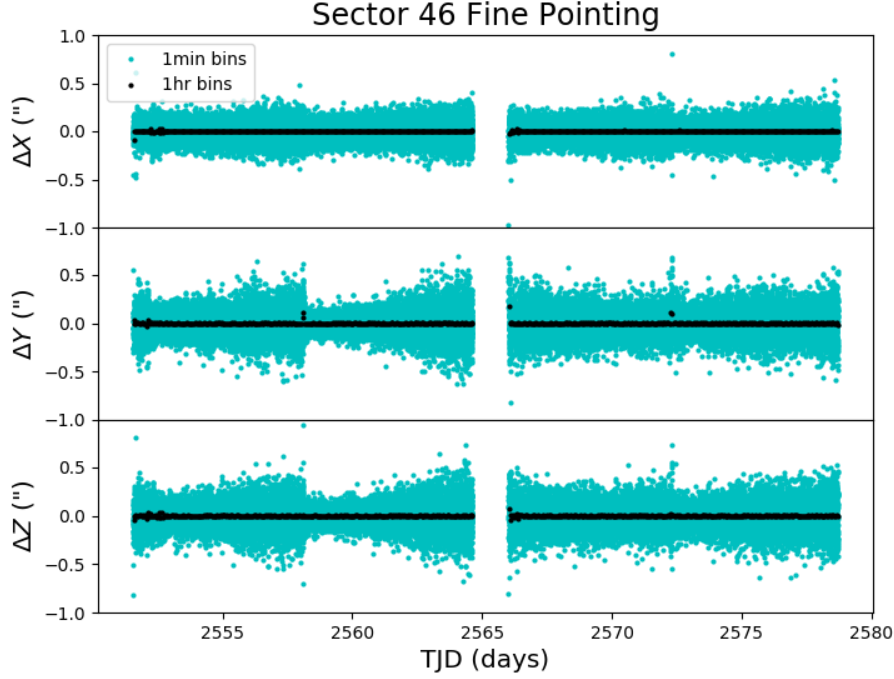


Figure 1: The delta-quaternions from each camera have been converted to spacecraft frame, binned to 1 minute and 1 hour. The figure for Sector 46 only shows quaternions from Camera 4. Long-term trends (such as those caused by differential velocity aberration) have also been removed. The  $\Delta X/\Delta Y$  directions represent offsets along the detectors' rows/columns, while the  $\Delta Z$  direction represents spacecraft roll.

## 1.2 Spacecraft Pointing and Momentum dumps

Sector 46 consists of observations of the ecliptic plane, with the camera array aligned along the ecliptic and Camera 1 the westernmost of the four.

For approximately the first 13 hours of orbit 99, Camera 4 alone was used for guiding. However, the Earth passed close enough to Camera 4 after this time that guiding was switched to Camera 1. The change in guiding was done in two steps. First, Camera 1 was enabled for guiding (concurrently with Camera 4) at TJD= 2552.088254 days. Then, Camera 4 was disabled for guiding 30 minutes later, at TJD= 2552.109087 days. At these two epochs, the spacecraft pointing shifted by a small amount, less than 1 arcsecond. The cadences for each data mode at these epochs are marked with an Attitude Tweak anomaly flag (Bit 1). In some cases, especially for saturated stars, the `SAP_FLUX` light curves exhibit a step function at these times.

Camera 1 alone was used for guiding in all of orbit 100.

One momentum dump was performed in each of orbits 99 and 100. Figure 1 summarizes the pointing performance over the course of the sector based on Fine Pointing telemetry.

### 1.3 Scattered Light

Figure 2 shows the median value of the background estimate for all targets on a given CCD as a function of time. Figure 3 shows the angle between each camera’s boresight and the Earth or Moon—this figure can be used to identify periods affected by scattered light and the relative contributions of the Earth and Moon to the image backgrounds.

At the start of orbit 99, the Earth crosses through Cameras 1, 2, and 3, saturating the CCD detectors and/or causing strong glints. At the start of orbit 100, the Earth is in Camera 3 and saturates the detectors before moving close to the edge of Camera 4, while the Moon passes close to Camera 1 (see Figure 3; the camera fields of view are marked by the horizontal black line). When the Earth or Moon are close to the camera fields of view, they cause strong glints and scattered light signals.

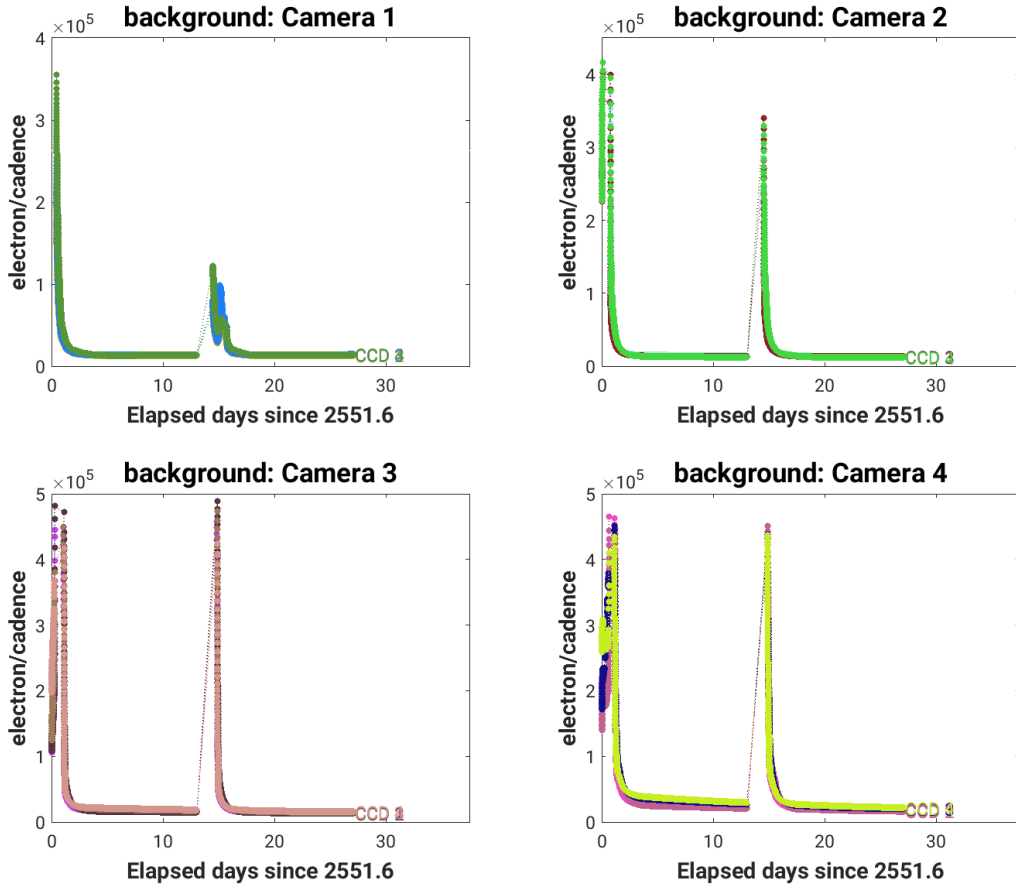


Figure 2: Median background flux across all targets on a given CCD in each camera. The changes are caused by variations in the orientation and distance of the Earth and Moon. In Sector 46, the Earth and Moon pass through the camera fields of view, saturating the detectors.

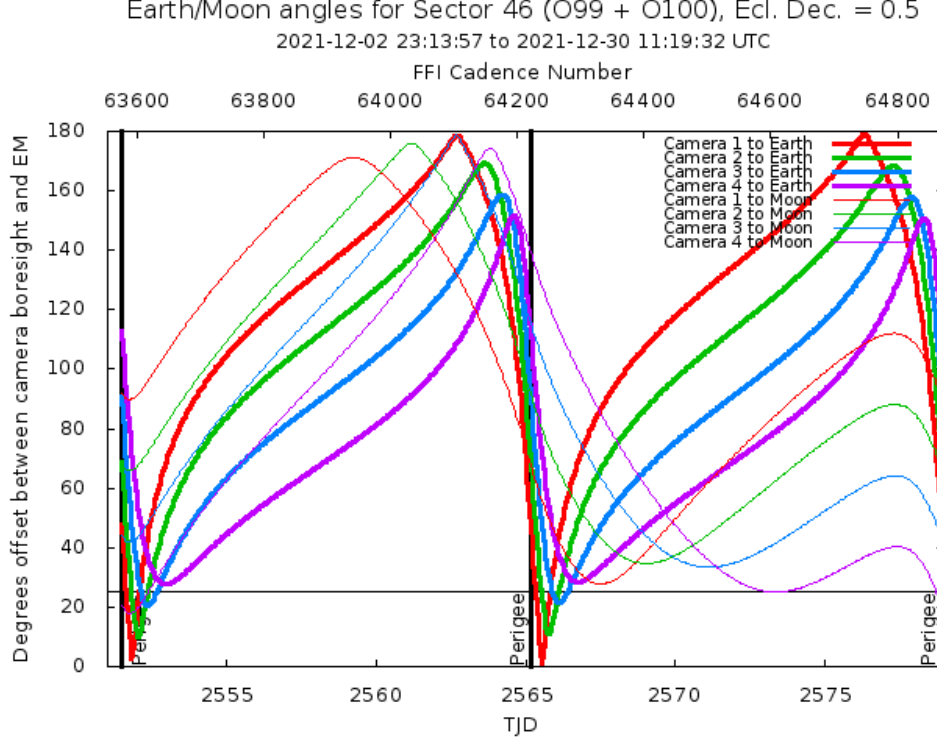


Figure 3: Angle between the four camera boresights and the Earth/Moon as a function of time. When the Earth is within  $\sim 25^\circ$  of a camera’s boresight, transiting planet searches may be compromised by high levels of scattered light. At larger angles, up to  $\sim 35^\circ$ , scattered light patterns and complicated structures may be visible. At yet larger angles, low level patchy features may be visible. Scattered light from the Moon is generally only noticeable below  $\sim 35^\circ$ . This figure can be used to identify periods affected by scattered light and the relative contributions of the Earth and Moon to the background. However, the background intensity and locations of scattered light features depend on additional factors, such as the Earth/Moon azimuth and distance from the spacecraft.

## 2 Data Anomaly Flags

See the [SDPDD](#) (§9) for a list of data quality flags and the associated binary values used for TESS data, and the [TESS Instrument Handbook](#) for a more detailed description of each flag.

The following flags were not used in Sector 46: bits 2, and 9 (Safe Mode and Discontinuity).

Cadences marked with bits 1, 3, 4, 6, and 12 (Attitude Tweak, Coarse Point, Earth Point, Reaction Wheel Desaturation Event, and Straylight) were marked based on spacecraft telemetry.

Cadences marked with bit 5 and 10 (Argabrightening Events and Impulsive Outlier) were identified by the SPOC pipeline. Bit 5 marks a sudden change in the background measurements. In practice, bit 5 flags are caused by rapidly changing glints and unstable pointing at times near momentum dumps. Bit 10 marks an outlier identified by PDC and omitted from the cotrending procedure.



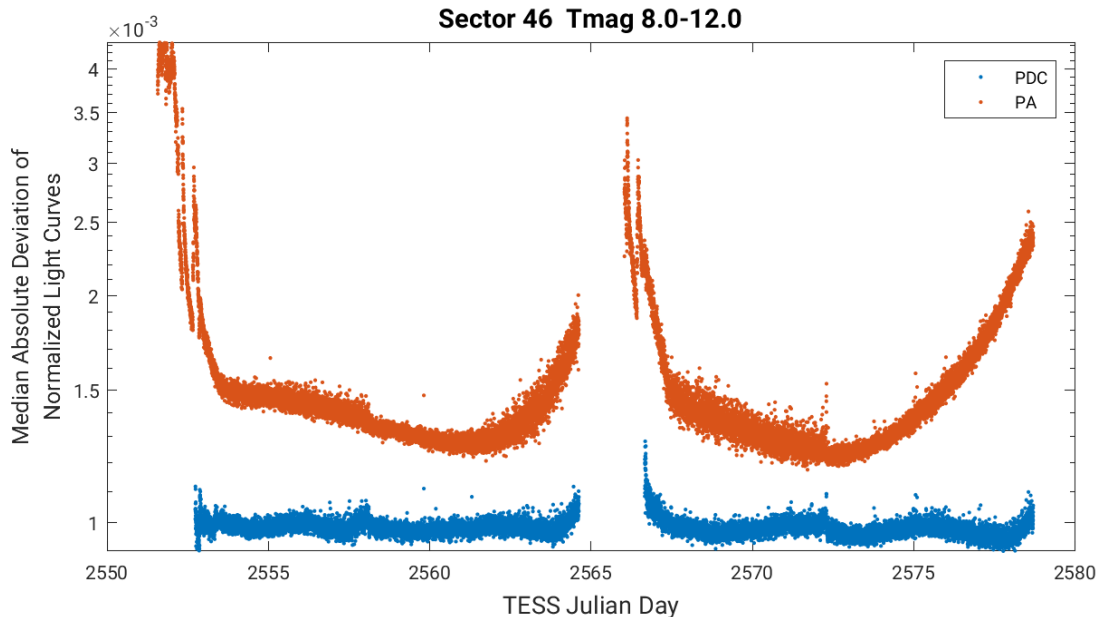


Figure 4: Median absolute deviation (MAD) for the two-minute cadence data from Sector 46, showing the performance of the cotrending after identifying Manual Exclude data quality flags. The MAD is calculated in each cadence across stars with flux variations less than 1% for both the PA (red) and PDC (blue) light curves, where each light curve is normalized by its median flux value. The scatter in the PA light curves is much higher than that for the PDC light curves, and the outliers in the PA light curves are largely absent from the PDC light curves due to the use of the anomaly flags.

The 20-second data mode includes cadences marked with bit 7 and 11 (Cosmic Ray in Optimal Aperture and Cosmic Ray in Collateral Pixel). These flags indicate cadences affected by cosmic rays that are removed by the pipeline, and can be found in both the TPF and LC files. The data provided in the archive products are corrected for cosmic rays, and a FITS table extension in the TPF and Collateral Pixel File details the cosmic rays identified and removed by the pipeline at the pixel level.

Cadences marked with bit 8 (Manual Exclude) are ignored by PDC, TPS, and DV for cotrending and transit searches. In Sector 46, these cadences were identified using spacecraft telemetry from the fine pointing system. All cadences with pointing excursions  $>7$  arcsec (0.3 pixel) were flagged for manual exclude. Figure 4 also shows an assessment of the performance of the cotrending based on the final set of manual excludes.

The predicted stray light flag (bit 12, value 2048) is marked in the FFIs and flags times when the Earth/Moon are near the camera FOVs and may interfere with guiding or saturate the detectors. We strongly recommend that users inspect the FFI data before removing images marked with bit 12, because this bit is set based on predictions from mission planning and is known to be conservative with respect to the quality of data usable for analysis.

The predicted stray light flag (bit 12) is disabled for the 2-minute and 20-second data products. The scattered light exclude flag (bit 13, value 4096) identifies cadences at which individual targets are affected by scattered light

If the Earth/Moon interference is strong enough to saturate the detector, all targets on a

CCD slice will be affected and the data are unusable. Cadences with bad calibrations due to saturation are now explicitly marked with bit 15 (value 16384, “Bad Calibration Exclude”). For some cadences, the majority of targets on a CCD may be flagged for scattered light and not enough valid data remains to derive cotrending basis vectors in PDC. No systematic error correction can be applied at these times. This situation is identified by bit 16 (value 32768, “Insufficient Targets for Error Correction Exclude”).

FFIs were only marked with bits 3, 6, 8, 12, and 15 (Coarse Point, Reaction Wheel Desaturation Events, Manual Exclude, Straylight, and Bad Calibration Exclude). Only one FFI is affected by each momentum dump. There are no WCS coordinates for FFIs that coincide with momentum dumps.

## 3 Anomalous Effects

### Smear Correction Issues

The following columns were impacted by bright stars in the science frame, and/or upper buffer rows, and/or lower science frame rows, which bleed into the upper serial register resulting in an overestimated smear correction.

- Camera 1, CCD 1, Column 776 - Star FW Cancri
- Camera 1, CCD 4, Column 325 - Star HD 66552
- Camera 3, CCD 4, Column 1208 - Star HD 99647
- Camera 4, CCD 1, Column 768 - Star Delta Virginis
- Camera 4, CCD 3, Column 1705 - Star Alpha Virginis

## 4 Pipeline Performance and Results

### 4.1 Light Curves and Photometric Precision

Figure 5 gives the PDC goodness metrics for the two-minute cadence data, with residual correlation goodness and introduced noise goodness shown on a scale between 0 (bad) and 1 (good). The performance of PDC is very good and generally uniform over most of the field of view. Figure 6 shows the achieved Combined Differential Photometric Precision (CDPP) at 1-hour timescales for all two-minute targets.

### 4.2 Transit Search and Data Validation

In Sector 46, the two-minute light curves of 19997 targets were subjected to the transit search in TPS. Of these, Threshold Crossing Events (TCEs) at the  $7.1\sigma$  level were generated for 761 targets.

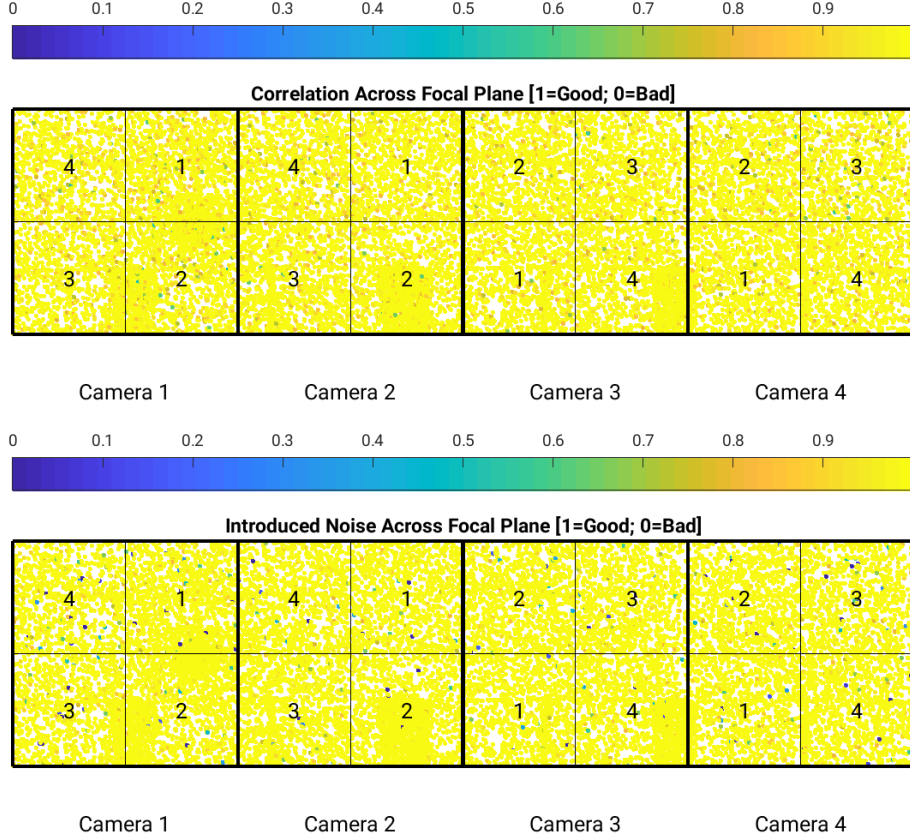


Figure 5: PDC residual correlation goodness metric (top panel) and PDC introduced noise goodness metric (bottom panel) for the two-minute cadence data. The metric values are shown on a focal plane map indicating the camera and CCD location of each target. The correlation goodness metric is calibrated such that a value greater than 0.8 means there is less than 10% mean absolute correlation between the target under study and all other targets on the CCD. The introduced noise metric is calibrated such that a value greater than 0.8 means the power in broad-band introduced noise is below the level of uncertainties in the flux values.

We employed an iterative method when conducting the Sector 46 transit search. The top panel of Figure 7 shows the number of TCEs at a given cadence that exhibit a transit signal from an initial run of TPS. The  $3\text{-}\sigma$  peaks were used to define de-emphasis weights for a second run of TPS, the results of which are shown in the bottom panel of Figure 7. The final set of TCEs and the results reported here are based on the second run of TPS. The values of the adopted de-emphasis weights are provided in the DV timeseries data products for targets with TCEs.

The top panel of Figure 8 shows the distribution of orbital periods for the final set of TCEs found in Sector 46. The bimodal nature of the period distribution is due to a large number of two-transit detections with periods ranging from 8 to 20 days, many of which are likely false positives. Two-transit TCEs can be identified with the `NTRANS` keyword in the headers of the dv-timeseries FITS files. The vertical histogram in the right panel of Figure 8 shows the distribution of transit depths derived from limb-darkened transiting planet model fits for TCEs. The model transit depths range down to the order of 100 ppm, but the bulk

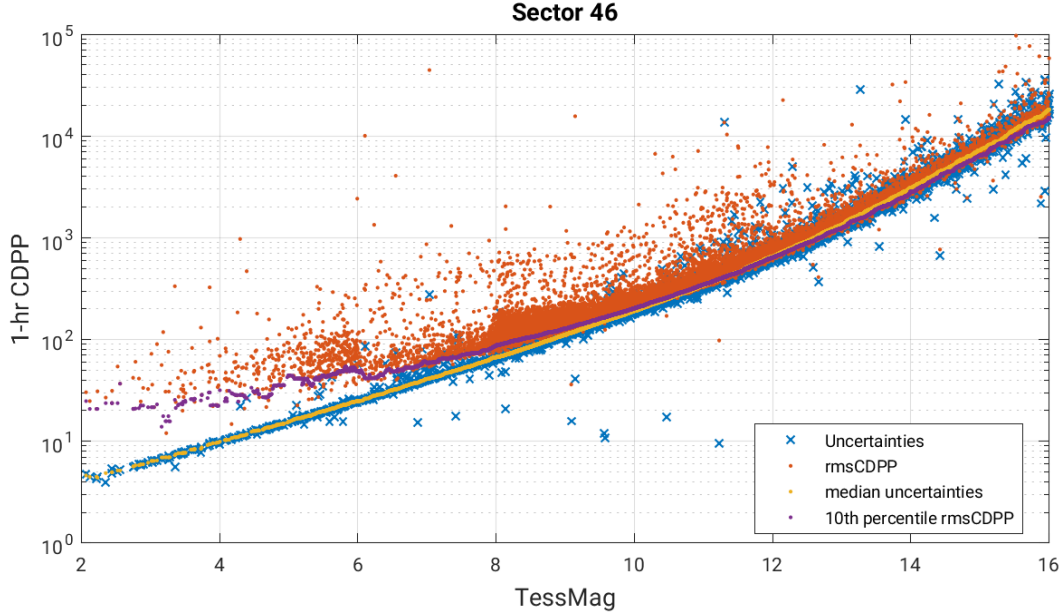


Figure 6: 1-hour CDPP. The red points are the RMS CDPP measurements for the 19997 light curves from Sector 46 plotted as a function of TESS magnitude. The blue x’s are the uncertainties, scaled to 1-hour timescale. The purple curve is a moving 10th percentile of the RMS CDPP measurements, and the gold curve is a moving median of the 1-hr uncertainties.

of the transit depths are considerably larger.

A search for additional TCEs in potential multiple planet systems was conducted in DV through calls to TPS. A total of 1026 TCEs were ultimately identified in the SPOC pipeline on 761 unique target stars. Table 2 provides a breakdown of the number of TCEs by target. Note that targets with large numbers of TCEs are likely to include false positives.

Table 2: Sector 46 TCE Numbers

Number of TCEs	Number of Targets	Total TCEs
1	552	552
2	167	334
3	31	93
4	8	32
5	3	15
—	761	1026

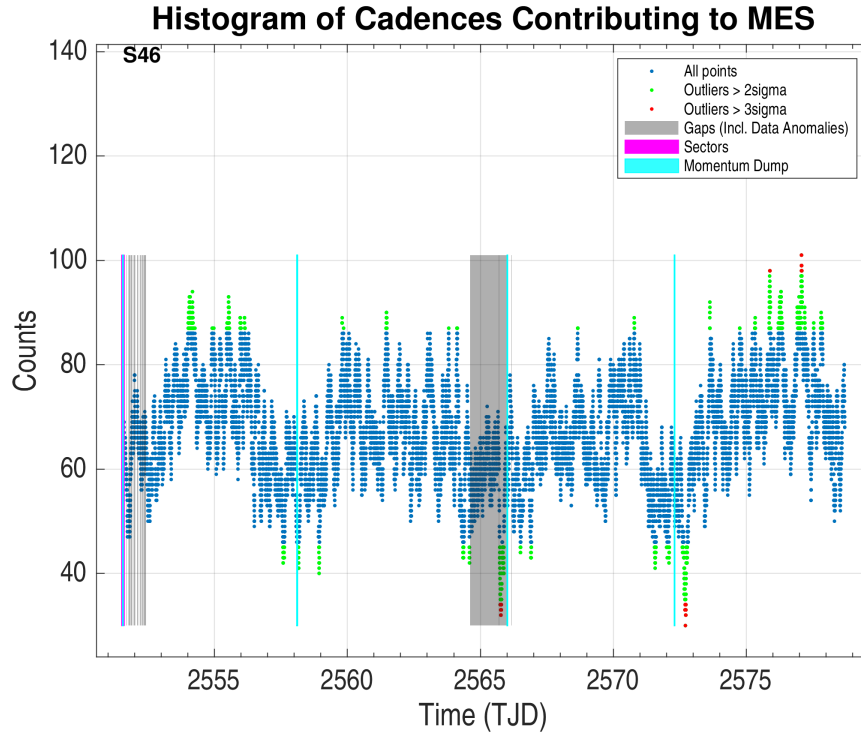
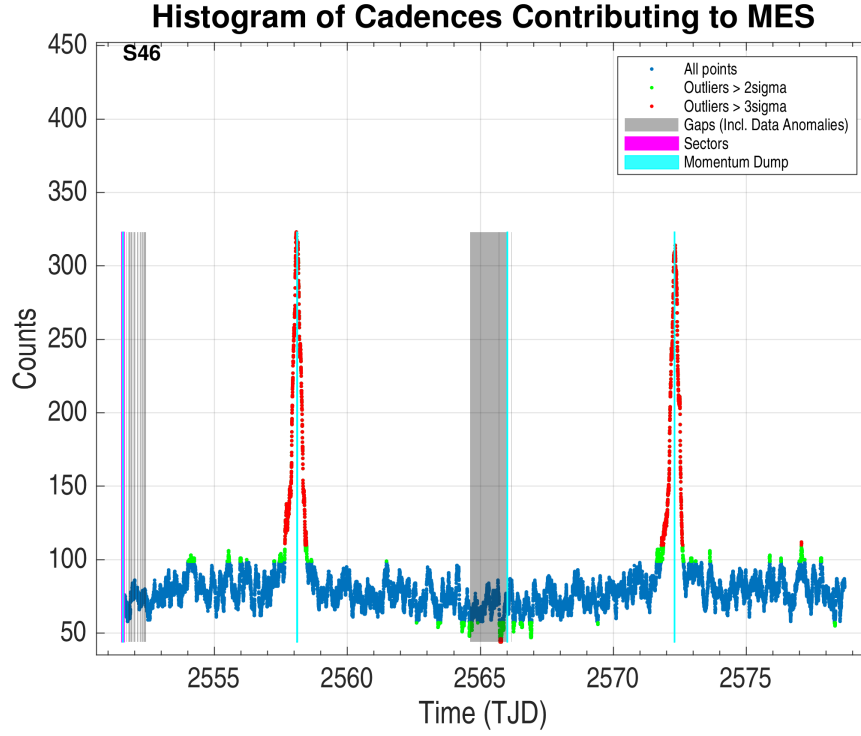


Figure 7: Top panel: Number of TCEs at a given cadence exhibiting a transit signal, based on an initial run of TPS. Any isolated peaks are caused by single events that result in spurious TCEs. These peaks were used to define de-emphasis weights that suppress problematic epochs for the transit detection statistics in a second iteration of TPS. Bottom panel: Results from the second run of TPS.

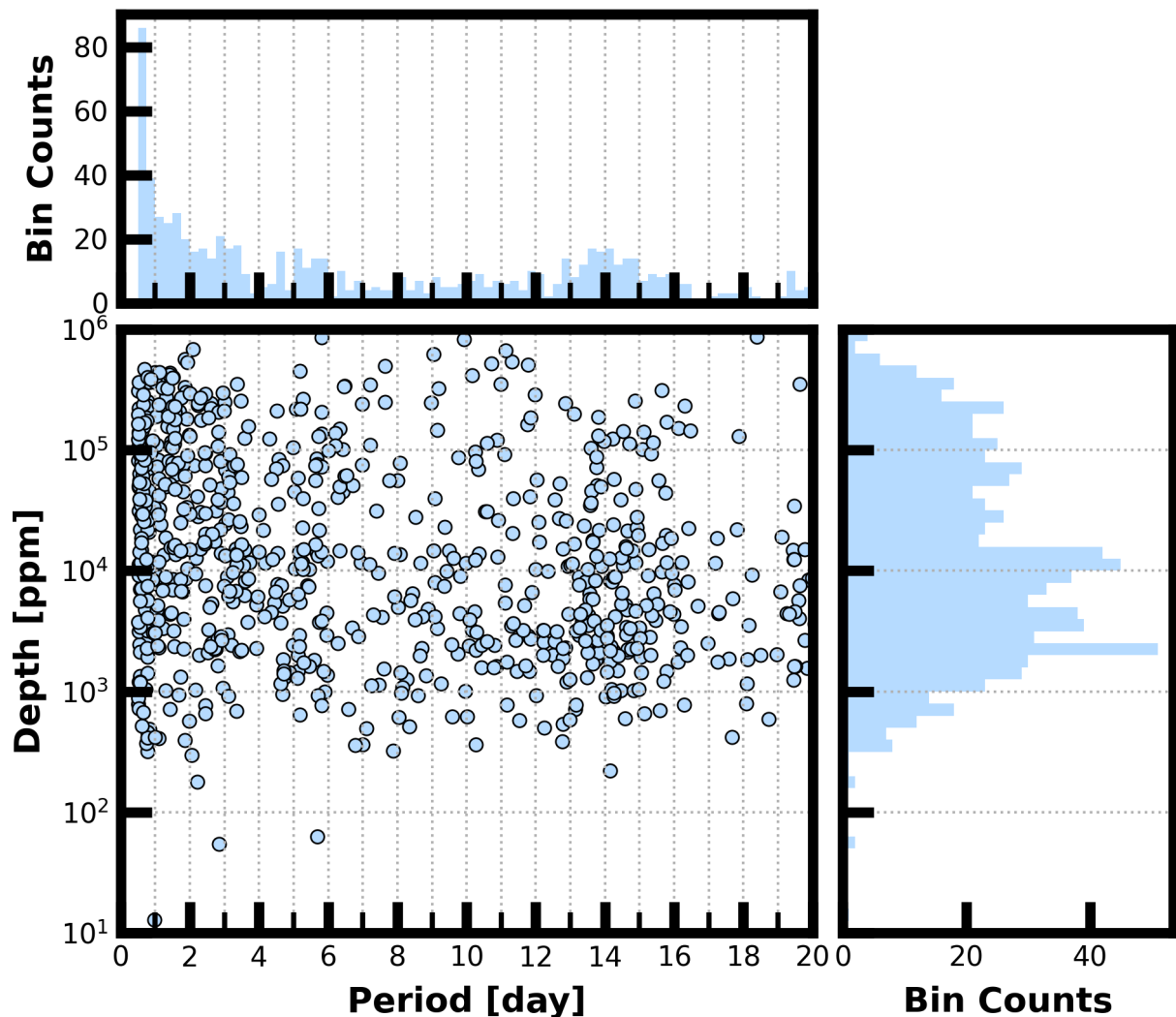


Figure 8: Lower Left Panel: Transit depth as a function of orbital period for the 1026 TCEs identified for the Sector 46 search. For enhanced visibility of long period detections, TCEs with orbital period  $< 0.5$  days are not shown. Reported depth comes from the DV limb-darkened transit fit depth when available, and the DV trapezoid model fit depth when not available. Top Panel: Orbital period distribution of the TCEs shown in the lower left panel. Right Panel: Transit depth distribution for the TCEs shown in the lower left panel.

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# Acronyms and Abbreviation List

<b>BTJD</b>	Barycentric-corrected TESS Julian Date
<b>CAL</b>	Calibration Pipeline Module
<b>CBV</b>	Cotrending Basis Vector
<b>CCD</b>	Charge Coupled Device
<b>CDPP</b>	Combined Differential Photometric Precision
<b>COA</b>	Compute Optimal Aperture Pipeline Module
<b>CSCI</b>	Computer Software Configuration Item
<b>CTE</b>	Charge Transfer Efficiency
<b>Dec</b>	Declination
<b>DR</b>	Data Release
<b>DV</b>	Data Validation Pipeline Module
<b>DVA</b>	Differential Velocity Aberration
<b>FFI</b>	Full Frame Image
<b>FIN</b>	FFI Index Number
<b>FITS</b>	Flexible Image Transport System
<b>FOV</b>	Field of View
<b>FPG</b>	Focal Plane Geometry model
<b>KDPH</b>	Kepler Data Processing Handbook
<b>KIH</b>	Kepler Instrument Handbook
<b>KOI</b>	Kepler Object of Interest
<b>MAD</b>	Median Absolute Deviation
<b>MAP</b>	Maximum A Posteriori
<b>MAST</b>	Mikulski Archive for Space Telescopes
<b>MES</b>	Multiple Event Statistic
<b>NAS</b>	NASA Advanced Supercomputing Division
<b>PA</b>	Photometric Analysis Pipeline Module



**PDC** Pre-Search Data Conditioning Pipeline Module

**PDC-MAP** Pre-Search Data Conditioning Maximum A Posteriori algorithm

**PDC-msMAP** Pre-Search Data Conditioning Multiscale Maximum A Posteriori algorithm

**PDF** Portable Document Format

**POC** Payload Operations Center

**POU** Propagation of Uncertainties

**ppm** Parts-per-million

**PRF** Pixel Response Function

**RA** Right Ascension

**RMS** Root Mean Square

**SAP** Simple Aperture Photometry

**SDPDD** Science Data Products Description Document

**SNR** Signal-to-Noise Ratio

**SPOC** Science Processing Operations Center

**SVD** Singular Value Decomposition

**TCE** Threshold Crossing Event

**TESS** Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite

**TIC** TESS Input Catalog

**TIH** TESS Instrument Handbook

**TJD** TESS Julian Date

**TOI** TESS Object of Interest

**TPS** Transiting Planet Search Pipeline Module

**UTC** Coordinated Universal Time

**WCS** World Coordinate System

**XML** Extensible Markup Language